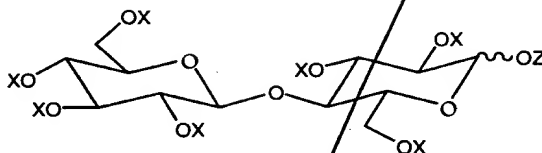


We Claim:-

- 1 As a new compound, an acylated cellobiose satisfying the general formula:



in which X represents an acyl group $-R-CO-$ or H, Z represents an acyl group $R'-CO-$ or H and not more than a minority of R + R' residues represent H and

in the remaining R + R' residues, R represents a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched chain hydrocarbon residue containing from 5 to 31 carbon atoms and

R' represents a residue which is different from R and which is:-

- (i) a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched chain hydrocarbon residue containing from 1 to 31 carbon atoms optionally substituted or (ii) an aromatic hydrocarbon residue, optionally substituted or (iii) a cycloaliphatic hydrocarbon, optionally substituted.

- 2 An acylated cellobiose according to claim 1 wherein X represents an R-CO- group in at least 6 locations.

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3 An acylated cellobiose according to claim 1 or 2
wherein the R residue is linear.

4 An acylated cellobiose according to claim 1 wherein the
5 R residue comprises from 7 to 11 carbons.

5 An acylated cellobiose according to claim 4 wherein the
R residue comprises 8 or 9 carbons.

10 6 An acylated cellobiose according to claim 2 wherein the
R residue is n-octyl or n-nonyl.

7 An acylated cellobiose according to any one of claims
1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6 wherein each R residue is the same.

8 An acylated cellobiose according to any one of claims
1 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6 wherein each X represents an R-CO-
group.

20 9 An acylated cellobiose according to claim 8 wherein
each R residue is the same.

10 An acylated cellobiose according to claim 1 wherein X
represents R-CO- in at least 6 locations and each R
25 residue represents a linear group comprising from 7 to
11 carbons.

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11 An acylated cellobiose according to claim 1 wherein the
R' residue is a residue selected from the group
consisting of alkyl residues containing from 1 to 6 or
from 11 to 24 carbon atoms, optionally substituted,
5 aromatic residues and cycloaliphatic residues.

12 An acylated cellobiose according to claim 11 wherein
the R' alkyl residue is a linear alkyl residue.

10 13 An acylated cellobiose according to claim 11 wherein
the R' aromatic residue comprises a phenyl, naphthyl or
biphenyl residue.

15 14 An acylated cellobiose according to claim 11 wherein
the R' cycloaliphatic residue comprises a cyclohexyl
residue.

20 15 An acylated cellobiose according to claim 11 wherein X
represents R-CO- in at least 6 locations and each R
residue represents a linear group comprising from 7 to
11 carbons.

25 16 An acylated cellobiose according to claim 15 wherein
the R residue is n-nonoyl.

17 An acylated cellobiose according to claim 15 wherein
the R' residue is selected from the group consisting of

linear alkyl residues differing from the R residue by at least 2 carbon atoms, phenyl, naphthyl or biphenyl residues and a cyclohexyl residue.

5 18 An acylated cellobiose according to any one of claims 1, 11 or 15 wherein the major fraction and preferably at least 90% of the acylated cellobiose is the α anomer.

10 19 An acylated cellobiose according to any one of claims 1, 11 or 15 wherein the major fraction and preferably at least 90% of the acylated cellobiose is the β anomer.

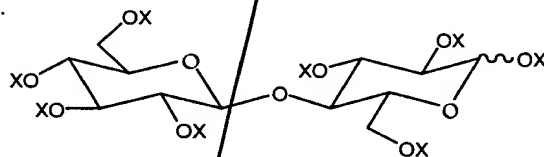
15 20 An acylated cellobiose according to any one of claims 1, 11 or 15 wherein not more than 50% of the Z residue represents H.

20 21 An acylated cellobiose according to claim 20 wherein not than 25% of the Z residue represents H.

25 22 An acylated cellobiose according to claim 1 which is selected from cellobiose heptanonanoate monobenzoate, cellobiose heptanonanoate mononaphthanoate, cellobiose heptanonanoate monoethanoate, and cellobiose heptanonanoate monocyclohexanoate.

23 An acylated cellobiose according to claim 1 which is selected from cellobiose heptadecanoate monobenzoate, cellobiose heptadecanoate monobiphenyloate, cellobiose heptadecanoate monoethanoate, and cellobiose heptadecanoate monocyclohexanoate.

24 A method for preparing an acylated cellobiose according to claim 1 comprising the step of reacting an acylated cellobiose having general formula 2:



in which X represents an acyl group (R-CO-) or H, being not more than a minority of X residues and R represents a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched chain hydrocarbon residue containing from 5 to 31 carbon atoms with an acylating agent containing a residue R' as described in claim 1 preferentially at the anomeric carbon of the cellobiose.

25 A method according to claim 24 characterised by first reacting cellobiose with an acylating agent containing a residue R as described in claim 1 in an amount such that a majority of hydroxyl substituents in the cellobiose are acylated, including the hydroxyl group at its anomeric carbon atom, secondly, at least

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partially deacylating the product of the first step at the anomeric carbon in the cellobiose and thereafter in a third step reacting the product of the second step with an acylating agent containing the residue R'.

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26 A method according to claim 24 wherein the acylating
agent employed for acylating at the anomeric carbon is
an acid chloride or carboxylic acid anhydride or
carboxylic acid/strong acid anhydride catalyst.

27 A method of thickening or structuring a water-immiscible liquid to form a cream, soft solid or solid comprising the steps of forming a solution of a gellant in the water-immiscible liquid at a temperature above its gelling temperature and thereafter cooling the solution to and maintaining it at below its gelling temperature until its viscosity has increased or until it has solidified wherein the gellant comprises an acylated cellobiose (CHME) as specified in any of claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 15 or 17.

28 A cream, soft solid or solid composition comprising a water-immiscible liquid structured or thickened by an effective amount of a gellant in which the gellant comprises an acylated cellobiose (CHME) as specified in any of claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 15 or 17.

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29 A composition according to claim 28 which contains the gellant in an amount selected in the range of from 0.1 to 20% and particularly from 0.5 to 15% by weight of its combined weight with the water-immiscible liquid.

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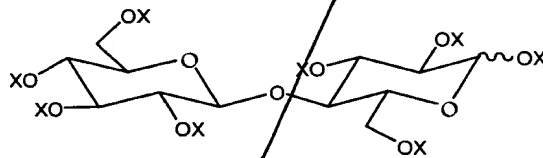
30 A composition according to claim 28 in which said acylated cellobiose CHME represents a major fraction of the gellant.

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31 A composition according to claim 28 in which said CHME ester is a cellobiose heptanonanoate monocyclohexanoate ester.

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32 A composition according to claim 28 in which said acylated cellobiose CHME is employed in conjunction with a gellant (ACB) that is represented by the formula:



in which X represents an acyl group (R-CO-) or H, being not more than a minority of X residues and R represents a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched chain hydrocarbon residue containing from 5 to 31 carbon atoms.

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34 A composition according to claim 32 in which said acylated cellobiose CHME is employed in a weight ratio to said ACB of from 25:1 to 1:25, preferably from 1:1 to 1:12.

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35 A composition according to claim 32 in which said CHME and said ACB are present in a weight ratio in the range of from 15:85 to 35:65.

36 A composition according to claim 32 in which the CHME comprises cellobiose heptadecanoate mono benzoate and the ACB comprises cellobiose octadecanoate.

37 A composition according to claim 35 in which the CHME is at least 90 molar% β anomer and the ACB is at least 80 molar% α anomer.

38 A composition according to claim 28 which additionally contains one or more active agents selected from skin benefit agents, personal care agents, medicaments, sunscreen or tanning aid.

39 A composition according to claim 37 in which the active agent is dissolved or suspended in the water-immiscible liquid.

40 A composition according to claim 37 in which said personal care agent comprises an antiperspirant or a deodorant.

5 41 A composition according to claim 39 in which the antiperspirant salt comprises selected from aluminium chlorohydrate, activated aluminium chlorohydrate, aluminium/zirconium chlorohydrate and a complex of aluminium and zirconium chlorohydrate with glycine.

42 A composition according to claim 39 in which the antiperspirant is as suspended in the water-immiscible liquid and the composition is translucent.

15 43 A composition according to a claim 28 in which the thickened or structured water-immiscible liquid forms an emulsion or micro-emulsion with an aqueous or water-miscible liquid.

20 44 A composition according to claim 34 in which the or one active agent is dissolved in the aqueous or water-miscible liquid.

25 45 A composition according to claim 42 in which the or one active agent comprises an antiperspirant salt.

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46 A composition according to claim 44 in which the antiperspirant salt comprises an aluminium salt or an aluminium and zirconium salt.

5 47 A composition according to claim 45 in which the antiperspirant salt is selected from aluminium chlorohydrate, aluminium/zirconium chlorohydrate and a complex of aluminium and zirconium chlorohydrate with glycine.

10 48 A composition according to claim 42 in which the emulsion is a water-in-oil emulsion.

15 49 A composition according to claim 47 in which the emulsion is transparent or translucent

50 A composition according to claim 48 in which the emulsion is a transparent or translucent stick.

20 51 Cosmetic use of a composition according to claim 28 in which the composition is applied topically to skin.